

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application as amended.

Claim 1-4, 6-11, and 23-25 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 30-37 have been added without introducing any new matter. Claims 30-37 remain pending.

Claims 1-4, 6-11 and 23-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-4, 6-11, and 23-25 have been canceled without prejudice, thus obviating the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6-11, and 23-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Narad (US 5,284,503). Claims 1-4, 6-11, and 23-25 have been canceled without prejudice, thus obviating the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

New claims 30-37 have been added without introducing any new matter.

New independent claim 30 sets forth:

predicting a value of a predicate in a first instruction in an instruction pipeline of an out-of-order processor, wherein the value of the predicate determines whether the first instruction is to be executed or not;
(New claim 30).

In contrast, the cited reference, Narad, fails to disclose at least the above limitation. According to Narad, the operating system will execute a read-modify-write cycle, whereby the CPU reads information contained in the storage register, then modifies the contents and subsequently writes the modified contents back into the register. (Narad, col. 1, ln. 39-43). Narad does not disclose or suggest predicting a value

of a predicate in a first instruction in an instruction pipeline of an out-of-order processor, wherein the value of the predicate determines whether the first instruction is to be executed or not. Therefore, new claim 30 is novel and patentable over Narad for at least this reason. Allowance of claim 30 is earnestly solicited.

For at least the reason discussed above with respect to claim 30, new claim 34 is novel and patentable over Narad. Allowance of claim 34 is earnestly solicited.

Further, claims 31-33 and 35-37 depend from claims 30 and 34, respectively. Thus, for the reason discussed above with respect to claims 30 and 34, claims 31-33 and 35-37 are novel and patentable over Narad. Allowance of claims 31-33 and 35-37 is earnestly solicited.

Applicants respectfully submit the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call C. Teresa Wong at (408) 720-8300.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(3), Applicants hereby request and authorize the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to (1) treat any concurrent or future reply that requires a petition for extension of time as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time and (2) charge all required fees, including extension of time fees and fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17, to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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